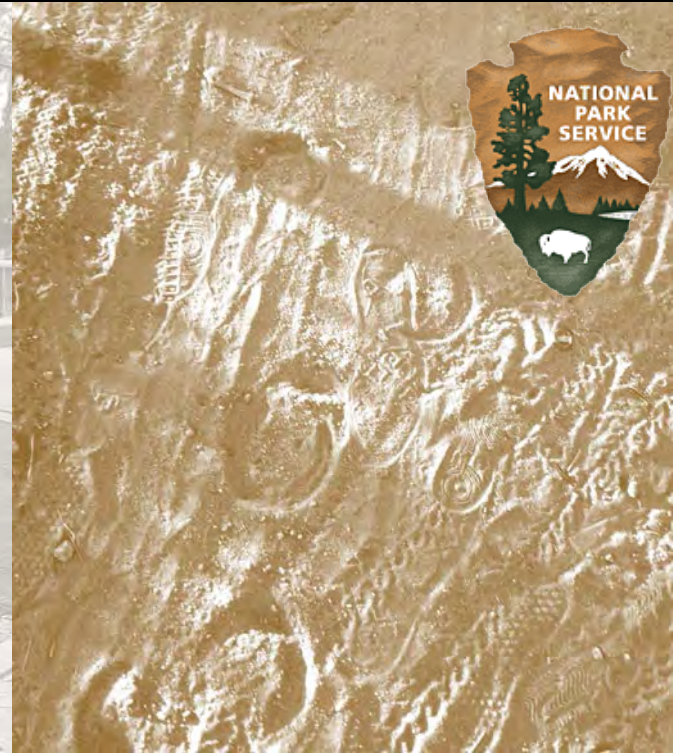


National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



PRESERVING URBAN EQUESTRIANS

MALISA MARTIN, OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BRIANNA WELDON, AMERICORPS FELLOW, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MARY BENSON, CITY OF LOS ANGELES EQUESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program **implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission** of the National Park Service **in communities** across the country.



Scout members learn about native plants on a trail walk in Colorado



Youth kayak the LA River

Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program

- A **planning and technical assistance** program
- Always **collaborative and community-based**
- Available to non-profits, local, state, and federal agencies by local request
- **Not a funding program**, but can be considered as “in-kind” contribution for matching purposes



Urban trails walk audit in Downtown Los Angeles

Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program

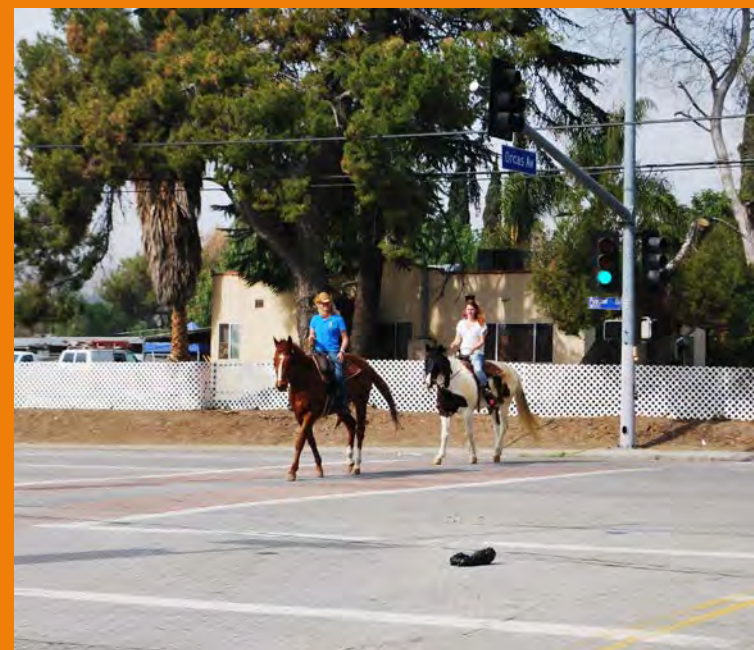
- Identify and analyze resources
- Coordinate public/private partnerships
- Develop public involvement strategies
- Organize and facilitate public workshops and stakeholder meetings
- Design and carry out a planning process
- Help organizations build capacity
- Facilitate community vision
- Outreach and project promotion
- Fundraising support

Looking at a potential site for a park with equestrian facilities and a community garden in Compton



Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program





HORSES IN THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA

Equestrian History in Southern California



Bridle Path along Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, 1925



Backyard horses, Sun Valley, 1954

Remnant Equestrian Communities



Dairy in Montebello

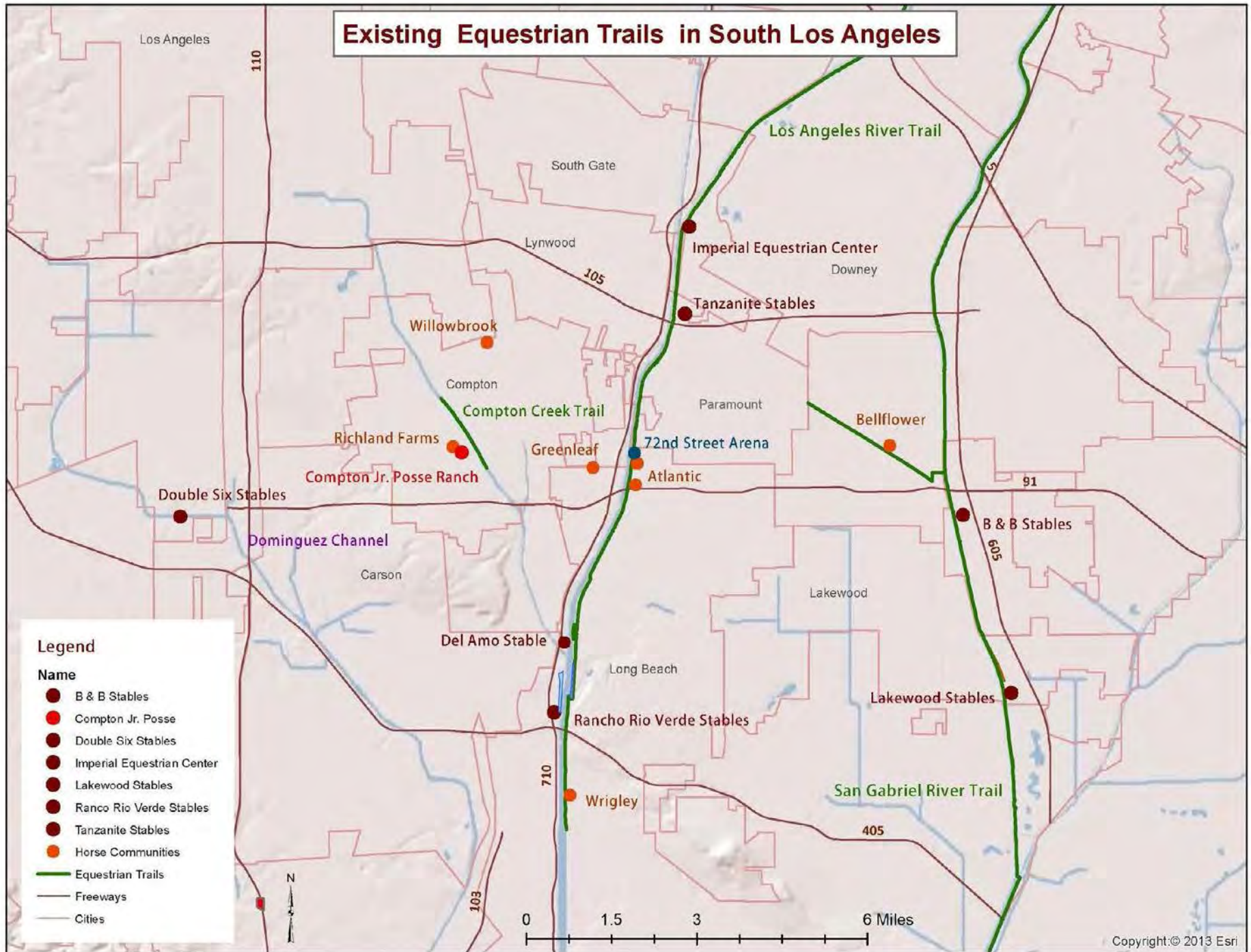


Equestrian park in North Long Beach



Charro riders along the Compton Creek

Existing Equestrian Trails in South Los Angeles



Stables & Trails

A HUB FOR ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

- Therapeutic & leadership
- All kinds of users and physical abilities
- Intergenerational
- Athletics, enjoyment, & recreation

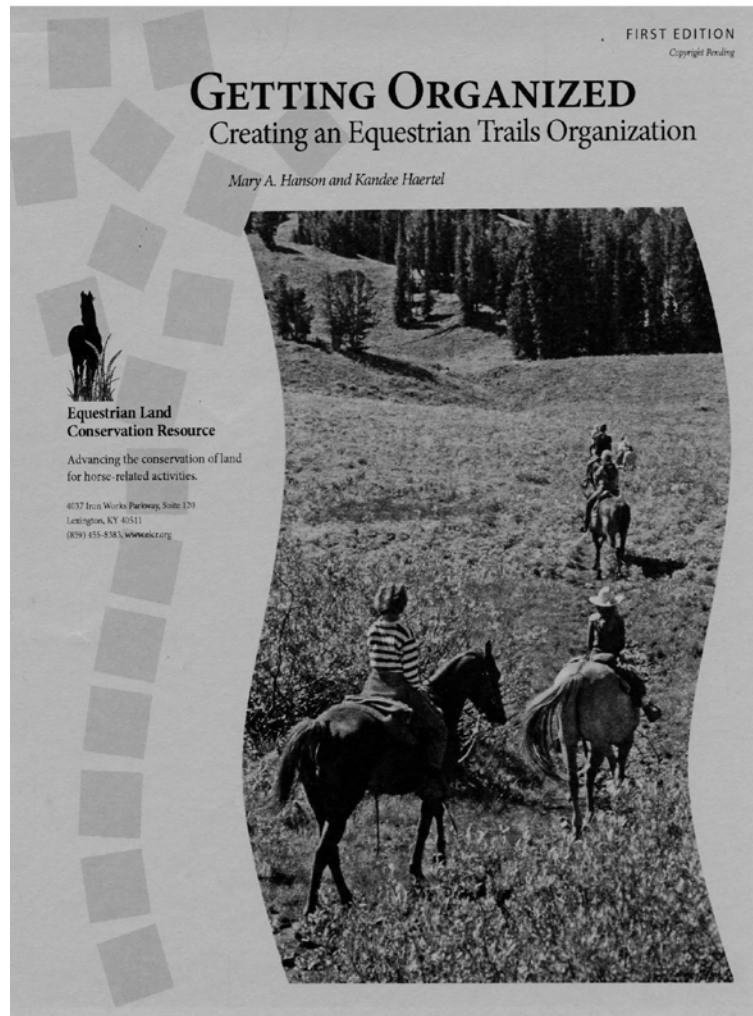
STABLES NEAR TRAILS

- More recreation and different from arena riding
- Different types of riding styles
- Located near right-of-ways (flood control, river, utilities, etc.) that can act as trails
- **Many stables see less trail riding due to safety concerns, broken trail connection, & lack of destinations**



B&B Stables on the San Gabriel (above) and Imperial Stables on the Los Angeles River (below) under within utility corridors and connect to trails along the river bikeways

Equestrian RTCA Projects



COMPTON JR. POSSE & CITY OF COMPTON
RIVERS, TRAILS & CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
JULY 11, 2013



CASE STUDIES

COMPTON CREEK EQUESTRIAN TRAIL, COMPTON, CA
TUJUNGA TRAILS, SUNLAND-TUJUNGA, LOS ANGELES, CA

Compton Jr. Posse, Youth Equestrian Program

Keeping kids on horses and off the streets!

RANCHING

- Management, husbandry, complete care and handling of horses

RIDING

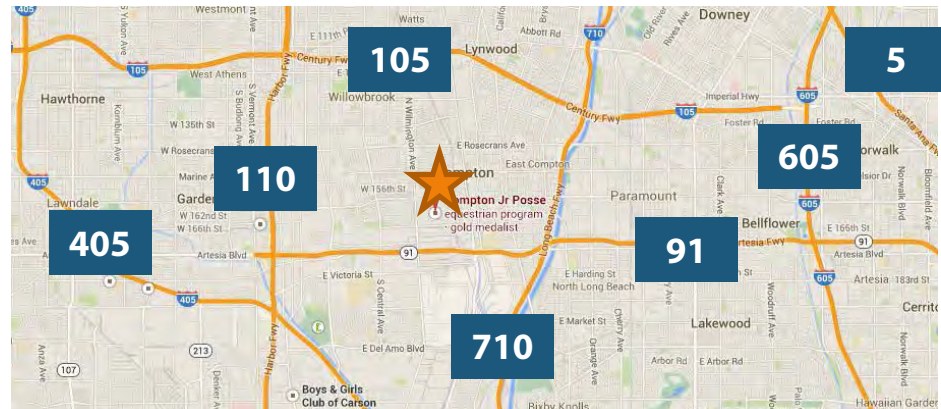
- Horsemanship, science, math, sociology, research, & technology

EDUCATION

- Mentoring, self development, certification

OUTREACH

- Exposure to equestrian and ranch lifestyles for underprivileged youth



Requested Assistance



**ASSESS TRAIL
CONDITIONS**



**RELATIONSHIP WITH
CITY**



**EQUESTRIAN
CONNECTIONS**

Precedent Studies

What other equine activity is happening in urban areas?

How is water quality being addressed on recreation paths along waterways?



**WILLOWBROOK
WALKING TRAIL**



LA CANADA EQUESTRIAN TRAILS



Trail Conditions Mapping



Trail Conditions Mapping



Trail Infrastructure Recommendations

CROSSINGS & SAFETY



Etiquette



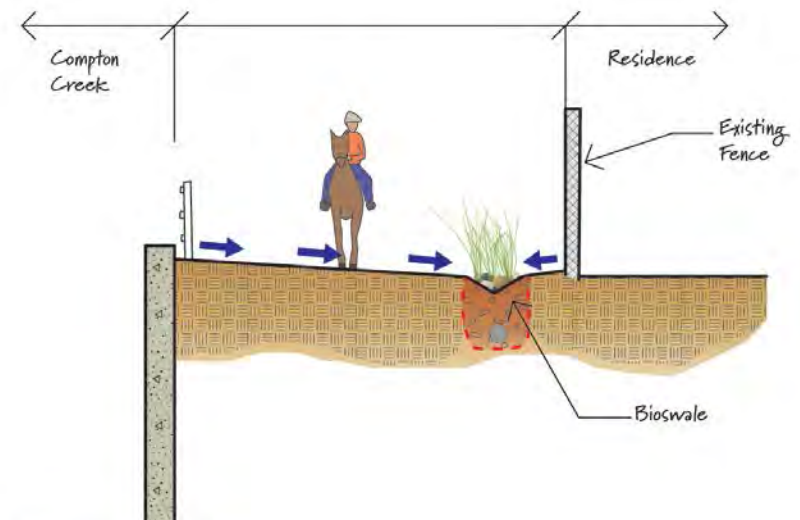
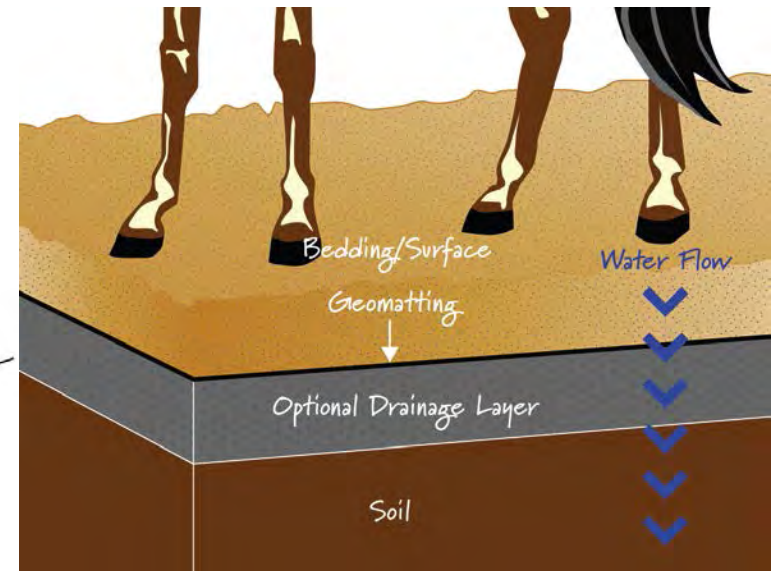
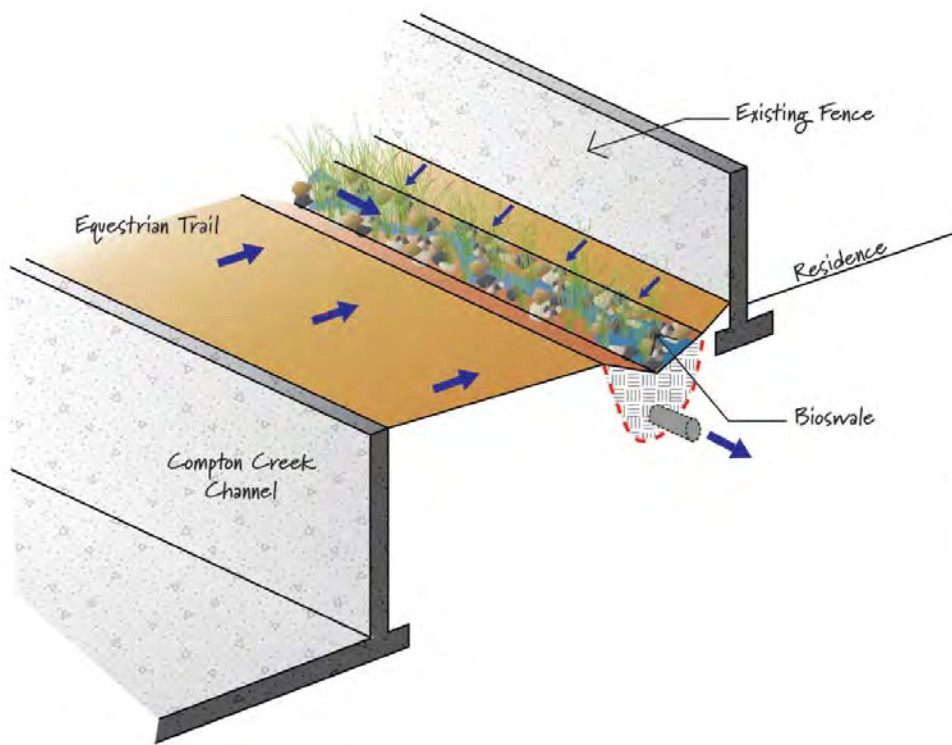
Awareness



Lighting & Signals

Trail Infrastructure Recommendations

TREAD & DRAINAGE



Trail Infrastructure Recommendations

ROUTING



■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Equestrian Trail

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Walk/Bike Trail

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Informal Trail

■ Richland Farms

● Trail Access

● Trail Blockage

— Pedestrian Bridge

■ Existing Parks

■ Potential Parks

■ Manure Dumpster

■ Horse Amenities

Community Education and Advisory Board



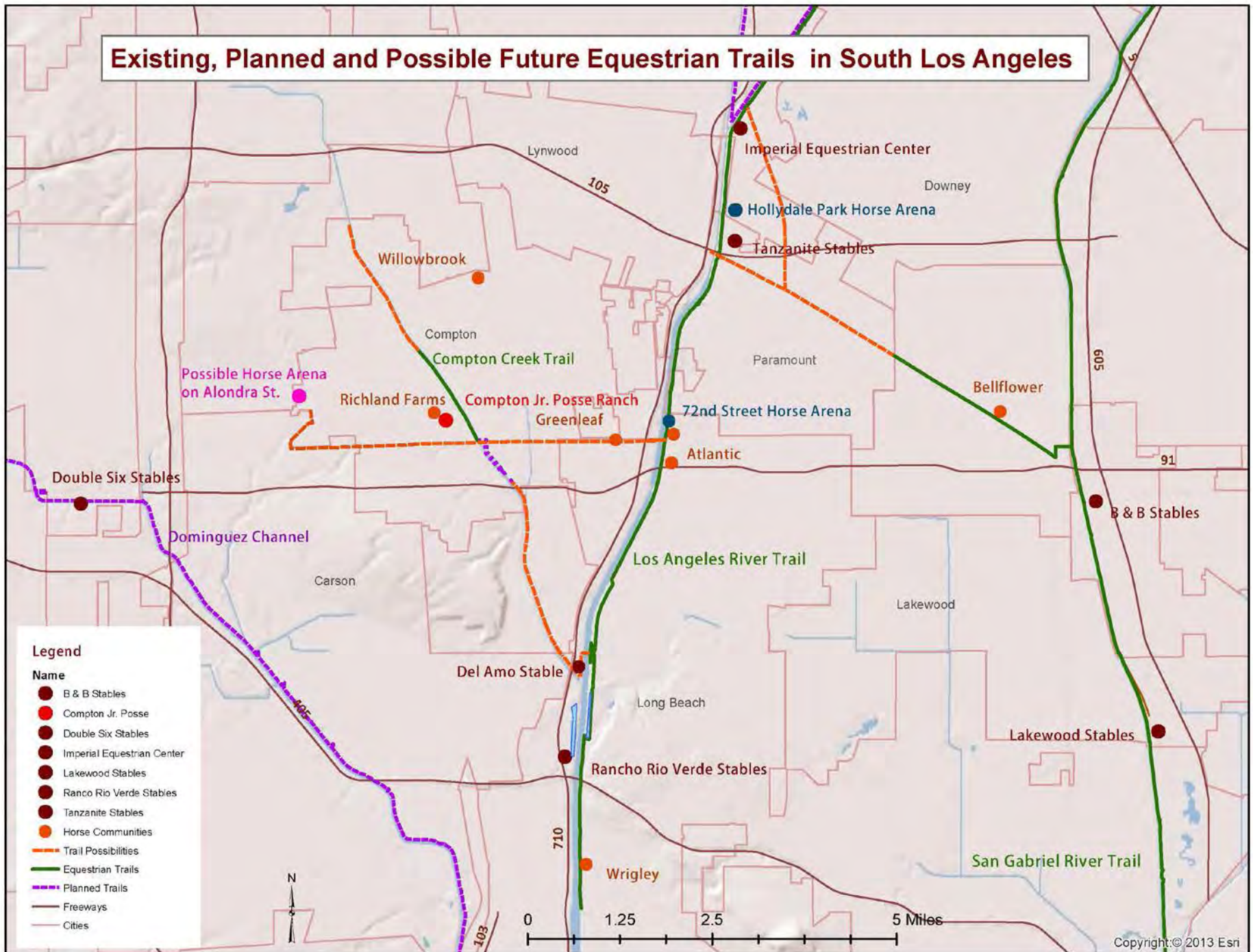
Meeting to discuss equine issues with City staff at a local park.

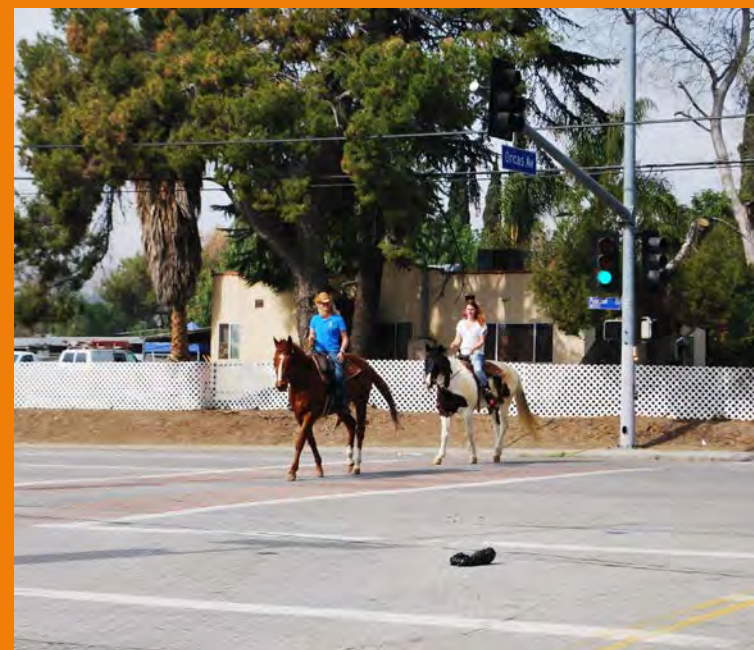


Re-Establishing Connections



Existing, Planned and Possible Future Equestrian Trails in South Los Angeles





BEST PRACTICES FOR EQUINE ADVOCATES

URBAN HORSEKEEPING
TUJUNGA TRAILS, SUNLAND-TUJUNGA, LOS ANGELES, CA

Identify Current Status

- Trails plan
- Land use plans
- Needs assessment
- Jurisdictions
- Issues
- Funding



Be an Effective Advocate

- Official recognition
- Outreach to elected officials

LA City Council members
attend Day of the Horse



Be an Effective Advocate

- Council Motions
- Accomplishments



LAEC receives DWP Water Drop award for efficient water use

Partnerships on Nature Trails

GROUPS

- Wildlife advocates
- Sierra Club
- Hikers
- Runners
- Marathoners
- Wildlife corridors
- Dog walkers
- Audubon chapters
- Watershed advocates
- CA Native Plant Society
- Boys & Girls Club
- Educators

GOVERNMENT

- Electeds
- Department Managers (city & county)
- Conservancies
- Planning documents

It's not about the mileage, it's about the experience

Partnerships with Youth Groups



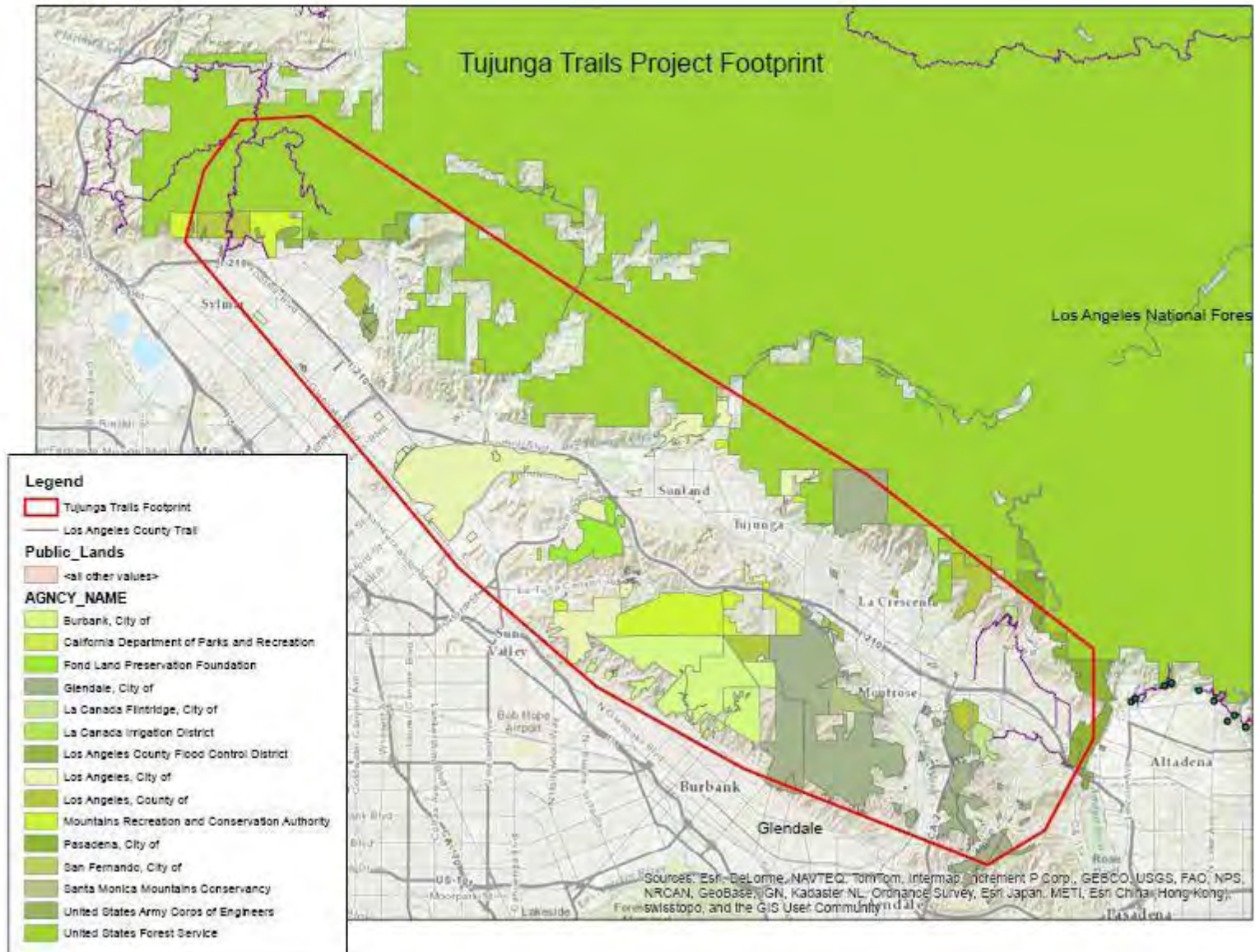
It's not about the mileage, it's about the experience

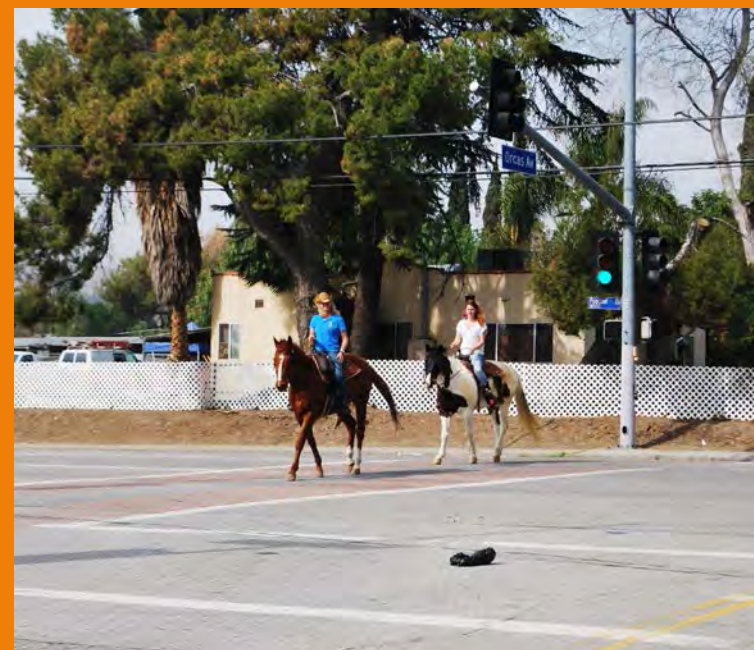
Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee

- **Applied** for National Park Service – RTCA technical assistance grant
- **Awarded grant for FY14 year**



Tujunga Trails Project





TAKEAWAYS



Riders at the 72nd St. Arena, LA County Parks, Long Beach



Youth bicyclists stop to pet a pony. Bellflower, CA



Equestrian trail along the Los Angeles River in Long Beach

Photo Credit: www.varley.net, Down a Lazy Concrete River

Outcomes

- Urban equestrian communities **exist in all kinds of socio-economic areas**
- Look to **build connections** with equestrians when trail planning



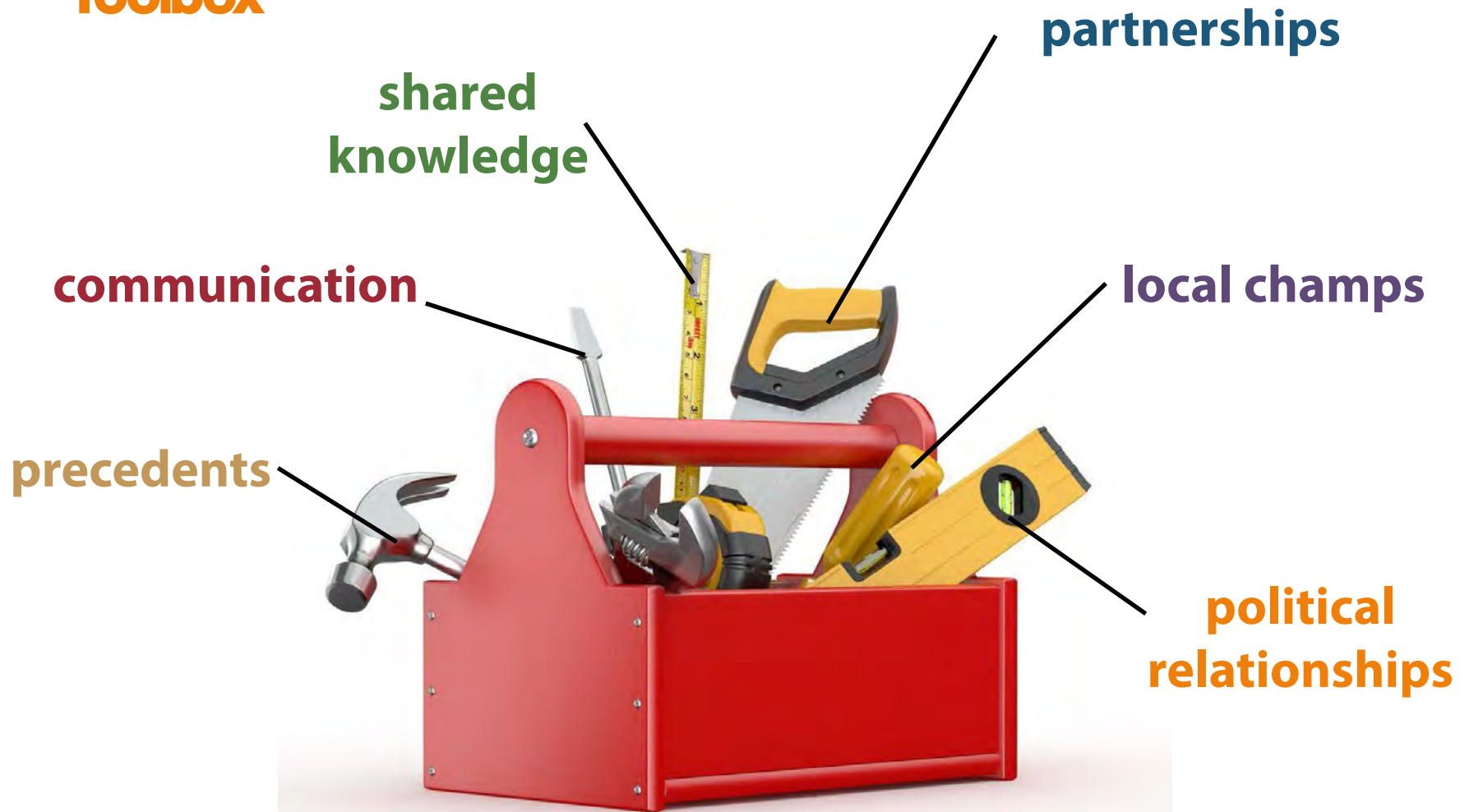
Outcomes

- Good source of **local trail knowledge** for community based mapping efforts
- Trail users can become **local champions** for all trails



Equestrians along the San Gabriel River

Toolbox



Contact



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